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ACTION UNIT

INFO RF. FILE VR OCI/NOA2, OSR/RA, OPR OSR/EF, OR/FE, OER3, EA2 NE4, OCI/ARM4

ACTION #

T 345224 EIA881 PAGE 01-01 NC 14768

TOR:152051Z AUG 74

R 151456Z AUG 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUMJSL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3777
INFO RUDKBT/AMEMBASSY RABAT 8842
RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
BT
S E C R E T STATE 178712
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KS
SUBJECT: SALE OF KOREAN MANUFACTURED M-16 RIFLES TO A THIRD COUNTRY
REF: A) CJUSMAK-K 030415Z AUG 74; B) SEOUL 5260
1. DEPARTMENT AND DOD HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDRED ROK REQUEST REPORTED REFTEL TO APPROVE SALE OF M-16 RIFLES TO MOROCCO. WE REGRET THAT WE CANNOT APPROVE THIS REQUEST.
2. SINCE CONGRESS HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT ROK PLANS TO PRODUCE 600,000 M-16 RIFLES FOR ROK USE ONLY, APPROVAL OF REQUEST BY ROK TO SELL THESE RIFLES TO THIRD PARTIES WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY TO CONGRESS AND WOULD IN OUR VIEW RESULT IN UNFAVORABLE CRITICISM. MOREOVER, OUR AGREEMENT TO M-16 CO-PRODUCTION IN KOREA WAS JUSTIFIED ON BASIS OF ASSISTING ROKG TO BECOME MILITARILY SELF-RELIANT AND NOT TO PROVIDE KOREANS WITH EXPORT CAPABILITY. THIS POINT SHOULD BE MADE TO KOREANS IN EXPLAINING USG POSITION.
3. FURTHERMORE, WE COULD ANTICIPATE THAT US INDUSTRY, I.E., COLT, WOULD ITSELF WISH TO PURSUE ANY REQUESTS FROM THIRD PARTIES TO PURCHASE M-16'S.
4. FOR RABAT: REFTEL FOLLOWS.
KISSINGER

State Dept. review completed.

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